IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 14, 29 and 43 as indicated below.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 44 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for preventing at least in part a server overload comprising the steps of:

detecting an excessive number of packets exceeding a predetermined limit;

sending a request to one or more of one or more routers connected to said server having a privilege relationship with said server, wherein said request is a request to block said excessive number of packets, and

blocking said excessive number of packets by one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server for a first period of time;

wherein each of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more neighboring routers.

Claim 2 (original) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

propagating said request to block said excessive number of packets to one or more neighboring routers by one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server.

Claim 3 (original) The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of:

determining whether to block said excessive number of packets by said one or more neighboring routers.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a second configuration file, wherein said second configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein if said second configuration file indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets then the method further comprises the step of:

blocking said excessive number of packets for a second period of time by one or more of said one or more neighboring routers if said second configuration file in said one or more of said one or more neighboring routers indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 6 (original) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein said second period of time is less than said first period of time.

Claim 7 (original) The method as recited in claim 3 further comprising the step of:

determining whether to propagate said request by said one or more neighboring routers.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a second configuration file, wherein said second configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more additional neighboring routers.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein if said second configuration file indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers then the method further comprises the step of:

propagating said request to one or more additional neighboring routers of one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers if said second configuration file in said one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers.

Claim 10 (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said request comprises one or more of an Internet Protocol address of said server, an Internet Protocol address of a client, and a port of said server.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said one or more routers connected to said server includes a second configuration file, wherein said second configuration file comprises information indicating whether a particular router has said privilege relationship with said server.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said one or more routers that have said privilege relationship with said server includes [[a]] said configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 13 (original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein said one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server block said excessive number of packets for said first period of time if said configuration file in said one or more of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (currently amended) The method as recited in claim [[14]] 1, wherein if said configuration file indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers then the method further comprises the step of:

propagating said request to one or more neighboring routers of one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server if said configuration file in said one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a server;

one or more routers coupled to said server, wherein one or more of said one or more routers with a privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for blocking an excessive number of packets for a first period of time;

~~one or more clients coupled to said server by way of an Internet; and~~

~~one or more neighboring routers coupled to [[said]] one or more clients configured to forward packets of data from said one or more clients to said server;~~

wherein said server comprises:

a processor;

a memory unit storing a computer program operable for preventing at least in part an overload of said server;

a bus system coupling the processor to the memory unit, wherein the computer program comprises the programming steps of:

detecting an excessive number of packets exceeding a predetermined limit; and

sending a request to one or more of said one or more routers connected to said server having said privilege relationship with said server, wherein said request is a request to block said excessive number of packets;

wherein each of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more neighboring routers.

Claim 17 (original) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to block said excessive number of packets to one or more neighboring routers.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 17[[,]] further comprises:

one or more neighboring routers coupled to one or more clients configured to forward packets of data from said one or more clients to said server, wherein said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

determining whether to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a second configuration file, wherein said second configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 19, wherein if said second configuration indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number

of packets then one or more of said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

blocking said excessive number of packets for a second period of time if said second configuration file in said one or more of said one or more neighboring routers indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 21 (original) The system as recited in claim 20, wherein said second period of time is less than said first period of time.

Claim 22 (original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein said one or more neighboring routers further comprise circuitry for:

determining whether to propagate said request.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 22, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a second configuration file, wherein said second configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more additional neighboring routers.

Claim 24 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 23, wherein if said second configuration indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers then one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to one or more additional neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers if said second configuration file in said one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers.

Claim 25 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein said request comprises an Internet Protocol address of said server, an Internet Protocol address of a particular client ~~of said one or more clients~~, and a port of said server.

Claim 26 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein each of said one or more routers connected to said server includes a second configuration file, wherein said second configuration file comprises information indicating whether a particular router has said privilege relationship with said server.

Claim 27 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein each of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server includes [[a]] said configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 28 (original) The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server block said excessive number of packets for said first period of time if said configuration file in said one or more of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 29 (cancelled)

Claim 30 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim [[29]] 16, wherein if said configuration file indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers then one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to one or more neighboring routers of said one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server if said configuration file in said one or more routers of said one or more routers

with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers.

Claim 31 (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a server; and

one or more routers coupled to said server; ~~and~~

~~one or more clients coupled to said server by way of an Internet;~~

wherein one or more of said one or more routers coupled to said server having a privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for receiving a request, wherein said request is a request to block an excessive number of packets detected by said server, wherein one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for blocking said excessive number of packets for a first period of time;

wherein each of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more neighboring routers.

Claim 32 (original) The system as recited in claim 31, wherein one or more of said one or more routers connected to said server having said privilege relationship comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to block said excessive number of packets to one or more neighboring routers.

Claim 33 (original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

determining whether to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 34 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 33, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a second configuration file, wherein said second configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 35 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 34, wherein if said second configuration indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets then one or more of said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

blocking said excessive number of packets for a second period of time if said second configuration file in said one or more of said one or more neighboring routers indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 36 (original) The system as recited in claim 35, wherein said second period of time is less than said first period of time.

Claim 37 (original) The system as recited in claim 33, wherein said one or more neighboring routers further comprise circuitry for:

determining whether to propagate said request.

Claim 38 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 37, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a second configuration file, wherein said second configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more additional neighboring routers.

Claim 39 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 38, wherein if said second configuration indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers then one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to one or more additional neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers if said second configuration file in said one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers.

Claim 40 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 31, wherein each of said one or more routers connected to said server includes a second configuration file, wherein said second configuration file comprises information indicating whether a particular router has said privilege relationship with said server.

Claim 41 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 31, wherein each of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server includes [[a]] said configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 42 (original) The system as recited in claim 41, wherein said one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server block said excessive number of packets for said first period of time if said configuration file in said one or more of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

Claim 43 (cancelled)

Claim 44 (currently amended) The system as recited in claim [[43]] 31, wherein if said configuration file indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers then one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to one or more neighboring routers of said one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server if said configuration file in said one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers.